

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for managing outputs to peripheral devices in medical systems devices, said method comprising:

providing an instruction to control a peripheral device;

creating a data object based on the instruction;

storing the data object in a second memory to be output to the peripheral device, wherein the second memory is not a component of the peripheral device;

~~determining whether the peripheral device is available to accept the data object before attempting to output the data object to the peripheral device; and~~

storing the data object in a first memory instead of the second memory if the peripheral device is not accessible and not available to accept the data object, wherein the first memory stores the data object for a longer time period than the second memory; and

automatically determining whether the peripheral device is available to accept the data object after the data object has been stored in the first memory.

2. (currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:

determining whether the peripheral device is available to accept the data object before instructing to store the data object in the first memory; and

transferring the data object from the second memory to the first memory upon determining that the peripheral device is not available.

3. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising enabling a user to access the data object from the first memory.

4. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:

acknowledging that the data object is received by the peripheral device if the data object is received by the peripheral device.

5. (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein said providing the instruction to control the peripheral device comprises one of:

instructing to print at least one of text, a report and images;

instructing to record to a video cassette recorder;

instructing to electronically mail a copy of images to a remote location;

instructing to create a copy of the images on one of a floppy disk, a magneto-optical disk, a compact disc, a flash memory card, and a digital versatile disc; and

instructing to create a copy of a patient's information on the digital versatile disc.

6. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein said creating the data object based on the instructions comprises one of:

creating a first data object that instructs to print;

creating a second data object that instructs to record to a video cassette recorder;

creating a third data object that instructs to electronically mail a copy of images to a remote location;

creating a fourth data object that instructs to create a copy of images on one of a floppy disk, a magneto-optical disk, and a digital versatile disc; and

creating a fifth data object that instructs to create a copy of a patient's information on the digital versatile disc.

7. (currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein a processor is configured to create the data object based on the instructions and wherein said storing the data

object in the first memory if the peripheral device that provides the output is not available to accept the data object comprises:

storing the data object in the first memory if the peripheral device that provides the output is at least one of deenergized, operationally de-coupled from the processor, and unoperational.

8 (currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein ~~a processor is configured to create the data object based on the instructions and wherein said storing the data object in the first memory if the peripheral device that provides the output is not available to accept the data object~~said automatically determining whether the peripheral device is available to accept the data object after the data object has been stored in the first memory comprises:

~~storing the data object in the first memory if the peripheral device that provides the output is operationally de-coupled from the processor~~repeatedly determining whether the peripheral device is available to accept the data object until the peripheral device is available to accept the data object.

9. (previously presented) An imaging system comprising:

a source configured to transmit medical imaging signals; and

a processor operationally coupled to said source, said processor configured to:

receive an instruction to control a peripheral device;

create a data object based on the instruction;

instruct to store the data object in a second memory to be output to the peripheral device;

instruct to store the data object in a first memory instead of the second memory if the peripheral device is not in an active state and not available to accept the data object, wherein the first memory stores the data object for a longer time period than the second memory; and

automatically determine whether the peripheral device is available to accept the data object after the data object has been stored in the first memory.

10. (previously presented) An imaging system in accordance with claim 9 wherein said processor is configured to:

determine whether the peripheral device is available to accept the data object before instructing to store the data object in said first memory; and

transfer the data object from said second memory to said first memory on determining that said peripheral device is not available.

11. (original) An imaging system in accordance with claim 9 wherein said processor is configured to perform one of:

enable a user to obtain the data object from said first memory; and

automatically obtain the data object from said first memory.

12. (original) An imaging system in accordance with claim 9 wherein said processor is configured to:

receive an acknowledgment that the data object is received by said peripheral device if the data object is received by said peripheral device.

13. (previously presented) An imaging system in accordance with claim 9 wherein to receive the instruction to control the peripheral device, said processor configured to perform one of:

receive an instruction to print;

receive an instruction to record to a video cassette recorder;

receive an instruction to electronically mail a copy of images to a remote location;

receive an instruction to create a copy of images on one of a floppy disk, a magneto-optical disk, and a digital versatile disc; a flash memory card, a compact disc, and

receive an instruction to create a copy of a patient's information on said digital versatile disc.

14. (original) An imaging system in accordance with claim 9 wherein to create the data object based on the instructions said processor configured to perform one of:

create a first data object that instructs to print;

create a second data object that instructs to record to a video cassette recorder;

create a third data object that instructs to electronically mail a copy of images to a remote location;

create a fourth data object that instructs to create a copy of images on one of a floppy disk, a magneto-optical disk, and a digital versatile disc; and

create a fifth data object that instructs to create a copy of a patient's information on said digital versatile disc.

15. (previously presented) An imaging system in accordance with claim 9 wherein to instruct to store the data object in said first memory if said peripheral device that provides the output is not available to accept the data object said processor is configured to:

instruct to store the data object in said first memory if said peripheral device that provides the output is at least one of de-energized, operationally de-coupled from said processor, and unoperational.

16. (previously presented) An imaging system in accordance with claim 9 wherein to automatically determine whether said peripheral device is available to accept the data object after the data object has been stored in said first memory said processor is configured to:

repeatedly determine whether said peripheral device is available to accept the data object until said peripheral device is available to accept the data object.

17. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a program configured to:

receive an instruction to control a peripheral device;

create a data object based on the instruction;

instruct to store the data object in a second memory to be output to the peripheral device, wherein the second memory is not a component of the peripheral device;

~~determine whether the peripheral device is available to accept the data object before attempting to output the data object to the peripheral device; and~~

instruct to store the data object in a first memory instead of the second memory if the peripheral device is not accessible and not available to accept the data object, wherein said first memory stores the data object for a longer time period than the second memory; and

automatically determine whether the peripheral device is available to accept the data object after the data object has been stored in the first memory.

18. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium in accordance with claim 17 wherein said program is configured to:

determine whether the peripheral device is available to accept the data object before instructing to store the data object in said first memory; and

transfer the data object from said second memory to said first memory on determining that said peripheral device is not available.

19. (original) A computer-readable medium in accordance with claim 17 wherein said program is configured to enable a user to obtain the data object from said first memory.

20. (original) A computer-readable medium in accordance with claim 17 wherein said program is configured to:

receive an acknowledgment that the data object is received by said peripheral device if the data object is received by said peripheral device.

21. (previously presented) The imaging system in accordance with claim 9, wherein said source is a component of at least one of an ultrasound imaging system, an electron-beam tomography (EBT) imaging system, a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) system, a single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) imaging system, a computed tomography (CT) imaging system, and a positron emission tomography (PET) imaging system.